Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1, 18 and 27 by replacement as follows:

1. (3X amended) Method for information storage and data processing comprising the step of thermo-inducing or photo-inducing double-bond shifts in substituted [4n]-annulenes which are substituted by at least one group comprising an extended conjugated π-electron system which is in conjugation with the π-electron system of the [4n]-annulene core, thus generating transitions between two different conjugation states with at least one substituent, resulting in different UV/VIS spectra of the double-bond shifted isomers of [4n]-annulene, which provides the possibility to use distinct conjugation states (conjugation on-state and conjugation off-state) for information storage and data processing, whereby a carrier system is present that allows the modulation of a multitude of the corresponding [4n]-annulene molecules for the permanent or erasable storage of their corresponding conjugative states.

18. (2X amended) [4n]-heptalenes according to claim 26, whereby said further substituents R are selected from the group comprising substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12}-alkyl groups or photoactive diazo-containing groups.

27. (amended) Substituted [4n]-annulenes according to claim 26, wherein at least one of the groups C^1, C^2 or R is a group -COO-$(CH_2)_n$OH, a group -COO-$(CH_2)_n$OOC-C(CH_3)=CH_2 or a group -COO-$(CH_2)_n C_6 H_4$-4-CH=CH_2 wherein $n \geq 2$.